



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

TORNADO PREPAREDNESS DAY

WHEREAS, tornadoes often form unexpectedly and their destructive power can cause significant property damage and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, a total of fifty-one tornadoes struck Virginia during 2011, the second highest number on record, killing ten people and injuring more than 100; and

WHEREAS, many Virginia communities continue to heal from the affects of the 2011 tornadoes that destroyed at least 212 homes and 17 businesses and damaged more than 1,050 homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, tornadoes can affect every part of the Commonwealth and can hit during every part of the year during daytime or nighttime; and

WHEREAS, planning and preparing for tornadoes and severe storms reduces the impact of these disasters on our citizens and their property, and all Virginians should know where to seek shelter during a tornado whether at home, at work, at school or elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the National Weather Service and local emergency management offices designate a day each year to focus Virginians' attention on tornado safety awareness and important life-saving procedures to be used in the event of a tornado; and

WHEREAS, a Statewide Tornado Drill is sponsored annually by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service and schools, colleges and universities, businesses and organizations, families and individuals are urged to participate in the drill set for March 20, 2012, at 9:45 a.m. when NOAA Weather Radio and Emergency Alert Systems will broadcast a tornado drill test message;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize March 20, 2012, as **TORNADO PREPAREDNESS DAY** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth